

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022



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Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government recently published updated guidance for schools which will inform our arrangements for after the Easter holidays. A letter from Jason Leitch was sent out to parents last week explaining the background to the changes and I am now able to advise how these changes will be implemented within the school.

I am also taking this opportunity to provide you with some further updates.

### **COVID Updates**

- **Ventilation and cleaning – no change**

The key ventilation, cleaning and infection control measures will not change – these are still vital to ensure that we minimise any potential transmission within school. Pupils will therefore still be expected to wipe down desks and chairs before and after use and to sanitise their hands when entering/leaving the building and when moving between classrooms. In addition, windows will remain open to ensure that there is adequate ventilation throughout the building. Hopefully during the summer term, with warmer weather, classroom temperatures will not be significantly affected.

- **Face Covering – no change**

Secondary pupils and all staff will follow the same guidance as the wider community in relation to the wearing of face coverings. This currently advises that face coverings should be worn in all communal areas and when moving through the building.

- **End of Testing**

The first major change is that the asymptomatic testing programme will stop on 17 April. There will no longer be a requirement for staff and secondary pupils to undertake routine, twice-weekly lateral flow tests. We will continue to issue tests until the end of the Easter holidays.

- **Parent/carers allowed back in school**

The second major change is that there are no longer any restrictions on parents, carers or wider family members entering school buildings, although they will be expected to comply with the school's routine hygiene and infection control measures. This means that course choice events, Parent Council meetings and parent contact events can once again take place face to face. The other good news is that parents, carers and family members will again be able to attend indoor and outdoor sporting and cultural events.



- **Other changes**

Other changes mean that the school is no longer required to issue low risk letters to contacts of a positive case in school, and those low-risk contacts now longer need to take a lateral flow test before returning to school.

There are no restrictions on indoor and outdoor drama activity, music, PE or dance and assemblies can take place. We will of course ensure that routine hygiene and infection measures continue to apply and that all spaces are ventilated in line with guidance.

This is the most significant relaxation of restrictions that we have had to date, and I understand that there may be some anxiety around this. A new risk assessment will be published in due course, but if you have any concerns regarding any of these changes, please get in touch with us via the usual email address, [breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk).

### **Return to Full Uniform - Secondary**

As I have previously advised, it is our intention to return shortly to full uniform in the secondary school. For much of this session, to take account of the poorer weather and the increased need for ventilation, we relaxed the requirements for black jumpers/cardigans, allowing pupils to wear instead whatever jumper or hoodie they felt would keep them warm. However, as the weather improves, we feel it is time to return to full uniform.

**As of the new timetable (beginning on Tuesday 3rd May) we will be asking young people to start wearing plain back jumpers or cardigans. We will also be asking young people to remove outdoor wear, such as jackets and coats, when they are in classes.**

I realise that for some parents this adjustment to uniform may not be straightforward, as young people may have grown out of black jumpers and cardigans and parents are reluctant to replace these with a relatively short amount of session to go. If this or any other issue will make it difficult for your child to comply with this re-introduction of full school uniform, please do get in touch with the school.

### **Uniform – Primary**

Primary pupils should continue to wear full uniform on the days they do not have outdoor learning or PE. When classes have PE, pupils can wear clothes suitable for physical education: shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms with a T-shirt and jumper. Pupils continue to need to have a change of clothes in case they need to change afterwards. As the infant classes get changed in their classrooms, some of the younger pupils are now getting changed into PE kit in school; class teachers will have already let parents know if this applies.

### **SQA Parental Information Session**

As SQA examinations draw close for the first time since 2019, parents will inevitably have some questions about arrangements for 2022. With this in mind, we will be doing a virtual SQA briefing for parents on 20<sup>th</sup> April between 5.30pm and 6.15pm, which can be accessed through this link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Driving through the Campus**

Whilst the majority of campus users drive around the campus in a safe manner, there is a small minority who do not. Please ensure you drive slowly through the campus, park in the allotted spaces and when approaching the crossing, be aware that pupils may be about to cross the road.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Marshall has temporarily reduced her hours and works on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesday Miss Wallace is Acting DHT and Mrs Thomson is Acting PT. Mr Shadbolt now teaches P1 on Wednesdays.

Yours sincerely

John Devine  
**Headteacher**